



29678-1
Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:
Kamaljit S. Paul

Group Art Unit: unassigned

Serial Number: 10/627,065

Examiner: unassigned

Filed: July 24, 2003

Title: SPINAL PLATE ASSEMBLY

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicant's duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicant wishes to bring to the Examiner's attention the references listed on the attached PTO Form 1449.

The undersigned attorney hereby certifies that the references cited on the attached PTO Form 1449 were first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. Accordingly, no fee is due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-2130.

No representation is made, and no representation is intended, that more relevant material does not exist or that the order of presentation of these materials in any way reflects their relative pertinence. The references cited on the attached PTO Form 1449 are not intended to constitute an admission of any kind. Specifically, this presentation is not an admission that any of the items listed on the attached PTO Form 1449 are properly citable against the above-identified application.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

February 10, 2004

Shelly Flunker

Shelly Flunker

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.98, the references are listed on the attached PTO Form 1449 and copies are submitted herewith. The attached copies may have been pulled from Applicant's or assignee's files. Accordingly, some of the references may have written indicia thereon. It is requested that the Examiner ignore all such written indicia as such indicia may not be relevant to the instant case or may not be an accurate characterization of the reference.

It is Applicant's desire to have these references available in the record for both the Examiner and the public to review. Applicant, therefore, requests that the Examiner review the entire disclosure of each reference and make all references of record.

Foreign Patent Documents:

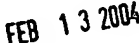
EP 1 169 971

Respectfully submitted,
Kamaljit S. Paul

By: Thomas D. Wilhelm
Thomas D. Wilhelm
Attorney for Applicant
(Reg. No. 28,794)

Customer Number: 23482

February 9, 2004
Appleton, Wisconsin
920-831-0100
920-831-0101FAX



Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

| | | | |
|-------|---|----|---|
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 |
|-------|---|----|---|

Complete if Known

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Application Number | 10/627,065 |
| Filing Date | 07/24/2003 |
| First Named Inventor | Karnaljit S. Paul |
| Art Unit | unassigned |
| Examiner Name | unassigned |
| Attorney Docket Number | 29678-1 |

[illegible][illegible]

Examiner
Signature

Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.